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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to kindly request that the annexed statement on NATO's bombing of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Belgrade, which was issued by my Government on 8 May 1999, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dumisani S. KUMALO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of
South Africa to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement on the NATO raid of Chinese Embassy in Belgrade issued on 8 May 1999 by the Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa in Pretoria

The South African Government has consistently expressed concern about the NATO bombing raids of Yugoslavia. It has also predicted that the bombing raids would not only exacerbate the humanitarian tragedy but that they would lead to unfortunate incidents such as the bombing of the Chinese Embassy and others.

While it condemns the ethnic cleansing policies of the Milosevic Government, the South African Government believes that the only way to resolve the Kosovo crisis is to strongly support the current international diplomatic initiatives aimed at ensuring a peaceful resolution to the problem. Furthermore, the South African Government believes that the matter should urgently revert back to the United Nations Security Council, the supreme body in matters of international peace and security.